



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Pinal Regional Partnership Council Work Session

Work Session Meeting Minutes October 14, 2009

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council Work Session was held on October 14, 2009 at Central Arizona College, Signal Peak Campus, Room M101, 8470 N. Overfield Road, Coolidge, AZ 85128.

Regional Council Chair Mezzio called the Work Session to order at 1:09 PM.

Council Members in attendance:

Kai Gerkey, Mary Kyle, Louis Manuel, Barbara Mezzio, Melanie O'Neil, Bryant Powell, and Charity Russell

Council Members not in attendance:

Mary Allen, Arnoldo Hernandez, and Christina Jenkins

First Things First Staff in attendance:

Marla Chamberlain, First Things First, Central East Regional Manager, Alicia Smith, First Things First, Senior Policy Specialist, Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, Regional Coordinator, Pinal Regional Partnership Council, and Carrie Loos, First Things First, Administrative Assistant III, Central East Region.

November, 2009 Pinal Regional Partnership Council Meeting Agenda Items

Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, Regional Coordinator, Pinal Regional Partnership Council, reviewed the agenda items for the November Regional Council Meeting. The agenda items reviewed were: strategy work groups reporting, discussion and possible approval of the Pinal SFY2011 Regional Funding Plan, and possible presentation for Quality First!.

Update and Discussion of the 2010 Funding Plan

Ms. Kempton-Sarosi gave an update and discussed the 2010 Funding Plan and the strategies with the Regional Council Members. The strategies were reviewed by Ms. Kempton-Sarosi:

- **Strategy 1** – Continuing Medical Education – three part component (advisory committee, survey, and 25 scholarships to participate in the Arizona Academy of Pediatrics Conference). The allocation for strategy 1 is \$115,000.00 but will decrease due to having a medical conference in Arizona.
- **Strategy 2** – Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs, insurance enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunization, and well child care (medical/dental home). Strategy 2a will address Insurance Outreach with an allocation of \$100,000.00, 2b will address Physician Outreach with an allocation of \$100,000.00, and 2c will address Parent Health Outreach with an allocation of \$100,000.00.
- **Strategy 3** – Health Screenings – increase children's access to preventative health care by providing oral, vision, and hearing screening, education and referral. The allocation for strategy 3 is \$500,000.00. Strategy 3 is currently being rewritten and will be re-released.



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- Strategy 4 – Quality First! – Quality improvement and rating system. The allocation for strategy 4 is \$687,000.00.
- Strategy 5a – Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) – Provide child care health consultation; plan for behavioral health consultation. The allocation for strategy 5a is \$220,000.00. The Child Care Health Consultants will serve a total of 60 certified homes and licensed centers.
- Strategy 5c – Mental Health Consultation – Improve children's health, safety and quality of interactions with providers and increase early identification of health or developmental concerns. The allocation for strategy 5c is \$200,000.00 (\$100,000.00 for 2 FTE for 6 months).
- Strategy 6 – Recruit and Support Home Providers – The allocation for strategy 6 is \$355,000.00.
- Strategy 7 – Home Visiting – Develop, enhance or expand comprehensive family/parent education and support services through home-visiting to serve families with children prenatal to ages 3. The allocation for strategy 3 is \$500,000.00.
- Strategy 8 – Family Support Coordination – Improve coordination of Family Support services and provide enhancement or expansion grants to existing family support services. The allocation for strategy 8 is \$249,000.00. The Family Support Work Group will be recommending to the Regional Council to hold this strategy for a rewrite to develop the strategy into a coordination strategy.
- Strategy 9a – Professional Career Pathways Project – Increase the number of tuition-based college course scholarships (40 scholarships). The allocation for strategy 9a is \$76,000.00.
- Strategy 9b – National Child Development Associate – Increase the number of tuition-based college course scholarships (40 applicants). The allocation for strategy 9b is \$50,250.00.
- Strategy 10 – Community Based Training – Expand and enhance existing community based early care and education training and support for professional development. The allocation for strategy 10 is \$250,000.00. Strategy 10 is currently being rewritten and will be re-released.
- Strategy 11 – Compensation and Retention – Implement a salary incentive program to increase wages and retain the early care and education workforce. The allocation for strategy 11 is \$50,000.00. The Statewide RFGA for strategy 11 was released on October 8, 2009.
- Strategy 12 – Recruitment Scholarship – Coordinate and implement a regional scholarship system to recruit new professionals to the early child care workforce. The allocation for strategy 12 is \$75,000.00 (15 Full-time students). The contract with Central Arizona College is currently under development.
- Strategy 13 – Awareness Campaign – Develop an awareness campaign about early childhood development and health and First Things First and increase awareness of programs and services through distribution of resource information. The allocation for strategy 13 is \$32,500.00.

Discussion of Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Plan Process

Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed Conflict of Interest (COI) with the Regional Council Members and reminded the Regional Council that a COI must be declared if there is a conflict with a strategy, if the agency they work for is providing services, or has the capacity to possibly apply for a future opportunity. During the Funding Plan process the Regional Council will be asked to declare a conflict of interest so to provide transparency and accountability. Ms. Kempton-Sarosi announced to the Regional Council that an email can be provided to the Regional Council or a speaker can present on Conflict of Interest, if there is interest.



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Additionally, Ms. Kempton-Sarosi reviewed the SFY2011 Regional Funding Plan Timeline with the Regional Council Members. The work groups have been used to talk about new needs, strategies, revisit old strategies, and the success of the strategies. The work groups will continue to be used to revisit the strategies and then a full funding plan will be presented to the Regional Council for review and feedback (unless there is a COI with a specific component). The final Funding Plan will be distributed to the Regional Council prior to the review at the November, 2009 Council meeting.

Grants which are released in SFY2010 (with 6 months or less of service) will have the allocation divided in half, with the remaining allocation to carry forward into FY2011.

Update and Discussion of the Child Care Health Consultation

Chair Mezzio reviewed the Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) circumstance and informed the Regional Council that Member Gerkey reviewed the draft contract and provided feedback to First Things First. Chair Mezzio introduced Marla Chamberlain, First Things First, Central East Regional Manager for an update on the Child Care Health Consultation. Ms. Chamberlain announced due to internal miscommunication at First Things First the Child Care Health Consultation contract was signed, by the grantee, prior to the feedback given by Member Gerkey. At this time the Elliott Hibbs, Director, First Things First has not signed the contract. Ms. Chamberlain apologized to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council and to Member Gerkey for the lack of transparency and the improper follow-through by First Things First and assured the Council that future actions will not take place in this process and will not occur again. An email from Sandy Foreman, First Things First, Assistant Director for Policy and Research was distributed to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council addressing the concern which was raised by the Regional Council regarding the minimum educational requirements for the Child Care Health Consultation. Ms. Foreman outlined steps to address the concern regarding the educational requirements:

- Aimee Kempton-Sarosi, Regional Coordinator, Pinal Regional Partnership Council was asked to act as a member of the hiring committee.
- Exemption Policy – an exemption policy was developed in the event that the requirement of a Registered Nurse, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Physicians Assistant or a Physician is not met.
- If the exemption policy needs be implemented the grantee is required to make the request in writing to First Things First and provide an explanation of all recruitment efforts to date.
- It was also asked that a member of the Pinal Regional Partnership Council or Pinal Regional Coordinator to participate on the committee to review and either allow or disallow the exemption.
- Ms. Chamberlain has offered her service to represent the Pinal Regional Partnership Council if there is a need to address the exemption policy.

Chair Mezzio asked to place the exemption policy on the subsequent agenda and revisit the process for further discussion.



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Additionally, the Regional Council would like to draft a letter to First Things First and provide a positive and productive way to provide feedback on this topic and the effects it had on the Regional Council. Chair Mezzio has asked that if Regional Council Members are interested in drafting a letter to develop a review group to draft the letter by the end of next week. The draft letter will be presented to the Regional Council Members for their review via email.

The work session was called to adjourn at 2:01 PM.

Submitted By:

Aimee Kempton-Sarosi
Regional Coordinator
Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Approved By:

Barbara Mezzio
Chair, Pinal Regional Partnership Council